

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 903

By Johnson

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Matt Figger of Austin Peay State University on being named OVC Coach of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pay tribute to those excellent coaches who have led their players to success in athletic competition and in the game of life; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Matt Figger, who, in his first year as head coach of the men's basketball team at Austin Peay State University, has returned the Governors to the top ranks of the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC); and

WHEREAS, coming off a disappointing 11-19 season in 2016-2017, Coach Figger's Governors were picked in the pre-season to finish eleventh in the twelve-team league, but through his superb leadership and coaching acumen, the Govs surprised their foes with a tremendous third-place finish in conference play; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of this remarkable achievement, Coach Figger was recently named the 2017-2018 Ohio Valley Conference Coach of the Year, a truly rare honor for a head coach in his first season; and

WHEREAS, Coach Matt Figger has become just the fourth Austin Peay men's basketball coach to win this prestigious award, joining the ranks of George Fisher, the legendary Lake Kelly, and five-time winner Dave Loos; and

WHEREAS, named head coach at Austin Peay State University on April 6, 2017, Matt Figger took over from Dave Loos, the winningest coach in OVC history, and was faced with a young team that included seven newcomers; and

WHEREAS, despite a 1-3 start to the season, the Governors compiled a 12-6 record in conference play to earn a third-seed in the OVC tournament, the team's highest since 2011; the squad's tenacious defense was ranked 14th in the nation and 62nd nationally in turnover margin; and

WHEREAS, most impressively, the Governors posted the second-biggest improvement nationally in points allowed per game, as they improved from giving up 83.8 points per game to their opponents to a miserly 71.2 points per game in 2017-2018; and

WHEREAS, prior to being named head coach at Austin Peay, Matt Figger spent nine seasons on the coaching staff of Frank Martin, including four seasons as associate head coach/recruiting coordinator at the University of South Carolina, where he helped guide the Gamecocks to the 2017 Final Four, and five seasons at Kansas State University as assistant coach/recruiting coordinator; and

WHEREAS, Coach Figger's coaching resume also includes tenures as director of operations at the University of Arkansas, assistant coach at the University of South Alabama, assistant coach at Odessa (Texas) Junior College, assistant coach at Vincennes College, and assistant coach at Wabash Valley (Illinois) Junior College; and

WHEREAS, his many professional accomplishments aside, Matt Figger is most appreciative of the love and support of his wife, Katrina, and their son, Vince; and

WHEREAS, Matt Figger has distinguished himself as a great basketball coach, tactician, and motivator of young men, and he should be appropriately recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Matt Figger on being named OVC Coach of the Year and extend to him our best wishes for continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.